

*Congressman Secured Language in Key Appropriations Bill*

Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) has secured approval from a key U.S. House committee to allow a study on the health effects of trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in Endicott, NY to move forward. Previously, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) had indicated that the Endicott study could not move forward due to the limited sample size of those affected. To address the problem, Hinchey authored language that would allow the agency to apply data from a soon to be completed larger study on TCE at the U.S. Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to make determinations about health effects of TCE contamination in Endicott, NY. Hinchey used his position on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior to include the language in the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bill.

"It is important that we have a full understanding of all the health effects associated with the TCE contamination which occurred in Endicott," said Hinchey. "I have been working for years to ensure that the ATSDR studies this problem, but unfortunately, the scientists at the agency indicated that they could not get a large enough sample size to make accurate scientific determinations. In working with the agency, we were able to craft a solution that would use data from an unprecedented multi-million dollar study at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to make scientific determinations about the adverse health effects of TCE contamination in Endicott. It's a creative solution that will help solve a difficult problem. I'm glad I was able to include this language so that the study can again move forward."

Hinchey has been the constant leader of efforts to clean-up TCE contamination in Endicott and hold all responsible parties accountable. In 2003, Hinchey had language included in a federal appropriations bill to have ATSDR conduct its health-risk study. In 2007, Hinchey secured congressional approval for a National Institute for the Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study on TCE exposure and cancer rates among 28,000 IBM employees who worked at the company's Endicott site since 1964. Hundreds of homes in Endicott were contaminated by TCE as a result of vapor intrusion. The compound is widely recognized as a probable carcinogen.

Nearly 10 years ago, the EPA conducted a Health Risk Assessment, endorsed by its Science Advisory Board that determined TCE to be 5 to 65 times more toxic than originally thought. The New York State Department of Health and ATSDR have released results from a series of health statistics review studies of residents exposed to TCE -- studies Hinchey fought to initiate -- that reveal increased rates of certain types of cancers, specifically kidney and testicular cancers,

and congenital heart defects for people and infants living in the area of the Endicott TCE spill.